

MAR 1952 51-4C

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

STAT

CD NO.

COUNTRY: Albania

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1953

SUBJECT Political - Unrest

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

DATE DIST. 23 Jul 1953

WHERE
PUBLISHED Athens; Mersin; Istanbul

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE
PUBLISHED 19 Feb - 30 May 1953

LANGUAGE Greek; Turkish

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES. WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793
AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVE-
LATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

UNREST IN ALBANIA, 19 FEBRUARY - 30 MAY 1953

PANIC INCREASES IN ALBANIA -- Athens, Ethnos, 30 May 53

Paris, May (Special Correspondence) -- An employee of one of the Western embassies in Albania, who has returned to the West after a long stay in Albania, stated to a press correspondent that panic has been increasing in Albania. Albanians are expecting any day now a Greek or Yugoslav attack and seem to believe that many anti-Communist partisans, spies, Titoite and US agents, and terrorists have infiltrated the country. However, the activities of the Albanian anti-Communist guerrillas has decreased lately because of arms and munitions shortages and the intensification of Communist persecution activities.

The same individual said that there is a large number of Soviet "counselors" in Albania, but it is hard to determine whether their influx has increased during the last months. These Soviet "counselors" have settled in the aristocratic neighborhood of New Tirana and are paid very well. For example, a Soviet colonel is paid 60,000 lek a month, while an Albanian colonel receives 12,000 lek, and an Albanian employee, 3,000 lek. Such conditions allow the Soviets in Albania to lead a luxurious life.

Another satisfied group in Albania is the ruling class of Albanian Communists. For example, Hoxha, who loves luxury, has furnished his Tirana mansion in a rather princely fashion. Furthermore, Hoxha receives, through some Polish diplomats, commodities from Paris and other European cities. Among the articles he receives through the diplomatic mail are hundreds of silk and nylon stockings.

GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN ALBANIA -- Athens, Akropolis, 29 Mar 53

Kastoria, Greece, 28 March -- According to reports from Albania, a small group of Albanian guerrillas recently met in battle with Hoxha's army in the region of Viglista [transliteration from Greek]. The guerrillas captured soldiers from Hoxha's army and a Soviet liaison man; also, in the Korce area, they captured the political commissars of the Partia Punes te Shqiperise

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION		<u>RESTRICTED</u>		DISTRIBUTION							
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB									
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI									

RESTRICTED

STAT

(Albanian Worker's Party). Furthermore, an Albanian military vehicle struck a mine on the Kohitsa /transliteration from Greek/-Tirana Road, killing the driver and injuring a high-ranking officer. The Albanian authorities have taken emergency security measures.

ANTI-COMMUNIST EXECUTIONS HAVE CAUSED UPRISINGS IN ALBANIA -- Mersin, Yenimersin, 12 Mar 53

Athens -- According to information from Albania, immediately after the execution of Suleiman Gjata and Gjon Vuksanin, Albanian nationalists who had been condemned to death, uprisings increased and strong partisan units appeared. The most violent of these battles occurred in the Gramsh area.

ALBANIAN REFUGEES REPORT WAVE OF TERROR IN ALBANIA -- Athens, Eleftheria, 15 Mar 53

Ioannina, 15 March -- Recently, 15 refugees from Albania gave themselves up to the Greek authorities and were taken to Ioannina. Some of them said that Stalin's death has caused much confusion in the Albanian Communist Party. A new wave of terror has swept the urban and rural areas, and the army has been placed in a state of emergency. In the rural areas, all movement has been forbidden.

The same refugees, who originally come from Southern Albania, said that the state of disorder is much greater in Northern Albania, since nationalist guerrilla groups exist there, while only few sabotage activities occur in Southern Albania.

STRANGE EXPLOSIONS AT ALBANIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS -- Istanbul, Aksam, 19 Feb 53

Trieste, 18 February -- Reports have been received concerning strange explosions which have occurred recently at various Albanian military headquarters. According to recent information, the last explosion occurred last week in Gorice at the 8th Albanian Infantry Division headquarters. It is reported that Aif Aska, the division commander, who had been educated in the USSR, was severely wounded by this explosion. Following this incident at Gorice, martial law was declared, and mass arrests were made in that vicinity.

- E N D -

- 2 -

RESTRICTED